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"(b) & (c) As the supervisor first posted to South Kanara district for panchayat works in that district is now on leave, another supervisor has been posted in his place. He is expected to join duty shortly."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have received any representations against the extra-ordinary delay in investigating panchayat works?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"Yes, Sir, hitherto all panchayats had to depend upon the Highways Department and other departments and there were some delays but now some arrangement is being made and supervisors are being posted for attending to panchayat works."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—"Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a separate engineering establishment for each district to carry on panchayat works speedily, efficiently and effectively?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"Something towards that end is now being made."

Administration of forests.

*938 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the instances of serious damage caused to the forests under the direct control of the Forest department and the suggestions made in the course of the speeches on Forest Demand by Sri Kune Rao, M.L.A. (page 35 of debates, dated 23rd July 1952), Sri K. R. Viswanadham, M.L.A. (page 31, dated 23rd July 1952) and Sri Seethi Sahib, M.L.A. (page 36, dated 23rd July 1952) of the Madras Assembly Debates— 9-10 a.m

(a) whether the Government have examined the question of entrusting forest administration to forest panchayats;

(b) whether the Government have considered the question of the constitution of District and Taluk Committees of non-officials to check corruption and abuses in Forest department, and if so, with what result; and

(c) whether the Government have examined the question of restoring forest concessions enjoyed by the ryots under the zamindaris and which were withdrawn on the taking over of such forests under the Forest department, and if so, with what result?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—"(a) No, Sir.

"(b) The question is under the consideration of the Government.

"(c) All the privileges enjoyed by the ryots under zamindari have been restored to them except in the matter of goat-browsing which has been prohibited. A Press Note to this effect has also been issued for the information of the public."

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SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Specific complaints have been made on the floor of the House, particularly about the villages in Venkatagiri where the forests are so close that any cattle straying away from the village will be liable for being kept in a pound. It was suggested that there should be some provision to leave a portion of the forest near the village for common use. Have the Government taken any steps to see that such reservation is made? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The supplementary question does not arise, Sir."

SRI V. RAMA RAO :—" Sir, by a recent order, the Government have closed some of the forest areas for goat-browsing. Some representations were made on this issue. Have the Government taken any action to open those areas for sheep-browsing? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, you mean the difficulties of the shepherds. That question also does not arise out of this, but I may say that we are looking into the matter."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the contractors in various coupes are increasing the scheduled rates of grazing, etc., without any limit and making it difficult for the peasants, will the Government do away with the contractors and entrust the administration of the forest coupes to the department itself? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, regarding the question of grazing fees, we are looking into the matter of having uniform rates."

Loans to village artisans in Rayachoti taluk.

* 939 *Q.*—SRI Y. AUDINARAYANA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many applications the Government have received for grant of loans under the loan granting scheme for village artisans from Rayachoti taluk in 1952; and

(*b*) how many have been sanctioned and how many have been rejected?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" (*a*) 31 applications have been received for loans on personal security, not exceeding Rs. 100 each.

" (*b*) None."

SRI Y. AUDINARAYANA REDDI :—" May I know whether the Government consider that it is essential now to grant the loans? "

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The fact is that there have been some discrepancies in the applications and the artisans themselves could not give the proper information. So, a special supervisor has been deputed to look into this matter. To be frank, I may mention here, Sir,